

PACKING for a new life

Migrant Suitcase Admira Connell

Shqipëri or Shqipëria - Republic of Albania to New Zealand, year 2017



The Story

I met my husband back home during 2001-2005, right after the war in Bosnia and Kosovo and we have been living overseas since then. Having seen many countries and cultures and experiencing some horrible but also bright moments in my life, it was time to come over to New Zealand and settle down.

When I decided to leave my country I decided to carry with me part of my life, culture and history to keep reminding me always about my roots.

Food

Albanian food is mixture between Mediterranean, Turkish, European such as Greek and a bit of Arabic taste to it.

Clothing

Traditional costumes are very colourful and difficult to produce as they need time and lots of effort. They are all handmade and sometimes looms are used for table cloths crochet and socks. Runners as part of Kilims or carpets made on looms weaving them as part of girls' dowry.

Religious items

Cup of blessed water with written parts of Koran, the blue eye as part of culture to protect you and family from the "bad eye or curse".

Music

Albanian traditional folk music is amazing, very rhythmic with many songs. Specific ones are played during weddings or engagement parties.

Books

Albanians and their story and The sworn virgin are representative.

Albania

Shqipëri or Shqipëria, the Republic of Albania is a country in Southeast part of Europe with an exceptionally rich and contrasting biodiversity defined in an area of 28,748 km. It shares the land borders with Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia & Greece and a maritime one with Italy. It is apportioned into 12 counties each with their own council and administration and a population of 2,886,026 inhabitants, of which nine minorities (Greek, Macedonian, Wallachian, Montenegrin, Serb, Roma, Egyptian, Bosnian and Bulgarian) are recognized. State without an official religion, 58% of the population are Muslims and 17% Christians (including Catholics and orthodox) and the rest are non-believers or refuse to accept religion. Albanian is the official language. Tirana is the capital together with Durrës (coastal town), constitute the economic and financial heart of Albania, due to their high population, modern infrastructure and strategic geographical location.

The country became a part of the Roman Empire in 167 BC and of the Ottoman Empire in 1431. The independence from the Ottoman Empire was proclaimed on 28 November 1912. During the World War Two, it was occupied by Italian and Germans troops and after the war it became a satellite state of the Soviet Union and Albania was under communism dictatorship right until The Revolution of 1991 when the democracy took place.



Tirana, Albania's Capital



Admira's Suitcase



The flag: Used now days is the one created on the Independence Day 28 November 1912, is a red with a silhouetted black double-headed eagle in the centre. The red stands for bravery and the blood, while the eagle represents the Sovereignty.



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PACKING for a new life

Migrant Suitcase Stéphane Pannoux

France to Nouméa, New Caledonia year 1994, to New Zealand, year 2009



The Story

This suitcase was filled as time goes by with things that I miss, which captures for me the French culture of which I am proud. I am not really a migrant. I have just chosen to work and live in foreign countries. I was born in a craftsman family. My ancestors, stained glass or tailor masters, have moved to work from town to town, from Italy, Switzerland, Savoie and Bourgogne to Belfort. In my time I have taught in Greece, Madagascar, Besançon before landing in South Pacific in New Caledonia and then in Aotearoa.

Food

I am missing some French food, especially cheese, wines, bread and cooked meat like Foie gras.

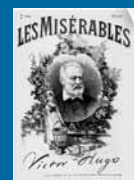
Way of life

What I miss the most is the French way to spend time with friends; invite or be invited by relatives to share a simple meal at home sitting around a table; take a cup of coffee playing cards during a rainy afternoon.

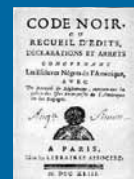
The French fashion and luxury brands represent an important industry and cultural export. I enjoy wearing colourful clothes especially after 10 years living with Kanak people who wear clothes made in colourful cotton.

Philosophic Items

The Declaration of the Right of Man and the Citizen, the “Code Noir” (Black Code) or the “Code de l’indigénat” (Code of the indiginate) that defined the conditions of the slaves or of the natives in the French colonial empire, are representative of the philosophies and political debates in the French society. France is the country of revolutions and manifestations, from the French Revolution to the Gilets Jaunes movement.



“**The Miserables**” is a book written by a French author Victor Hugo. Reading in French is for me a real pleasure. I miss going to the theatre even to see a classical play that I learned at school as “The Learned Ladies” of Molière.



France is a multicultural country where people don't forget their roots and culture and adopt the French way of life. The French society is very proud of their celebrities, sons or daughters of (im)migrants. The most known is the soccer player Zinedine Zidane.



Brandenburg Gate, Paris



Stéphane's Suitcase



The flag: Since 1794, the French flag has 3 vertical bands coloured in blue, white, and red. White represents France, blue and red the town of Paris.

The French motto is: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.



France

The French Republic is a country whose territory consists of metropolitan France in Western Europe and several overseas regions and territories. The country's 18 integral regions (5 of which are overseas) span a combined area of 643,801 Km² and a total population of 67.3 million. Paris is the capital. France has historically been and is a large producer of agricultural products and is the 1st touristic destination in the world with 90 million tourists per year. France is an immigration land. The oldest traces of human life known in France date from 1.8 million years ago. In its ancient history, Greek sailors, Romans from Italy, Franks and Wikins from the North, Huns from Hungary and Arabs from Spain came. In the Middle Age, French King Charlemagne who was in control of Europe and France sent a Norman as King of England.

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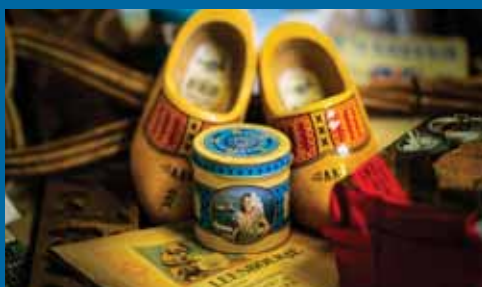
PACKING for a new life

Migrant Suitcase Hanna Mason

Nederland – The Netherlands
to New Zealand, year 1954



Hanna Mason (left) and Nanda Rammers



Hanna's Suitcase



The shepherd and his flock.



The flag: The colors used in the flag of the Netherlands are based on the coat of arms of Prince William of Orange, who was a leading fighter in the freedom for the Dutch. The main difference is that the red band was originally orange in color.



The Story

This suitcase story is about the de Bres family who emigrated from Holland to New Zealand in 1954. I was the youngest child at the time and was 18 months old. In total, there were seven children and my parents. We boarded the Waterman on 8 August for a boat journey that would last 33 days. My father was the ship's chaplain so we had a free passage and could take 10m3 extra of luggage.

My parents had been thinking about emigrating to Indonesia before WW2 but this wasn't possible. Having lived in occupied Holland and experienced the grim post war times, they were keen to go to another country that offered a better future for their family.

The Journey

There were various farewells, the hardest one being with family at the wharf in Rotterdam. My paternal grandmother was too sad to come, as she knew she would never see my parents or seven of her grandchildren again. My parents could not afford a return trip back to Holland until 27 years later.

The boat came through the Panama Canal and stopped at Curacao, Balboa and Tahiti before arriving in Wellington. The journey must have been very busy for both my parents.

The final part of the journey was rough so Wellington was a very welcome sight on 10 September. Before we disembarked, a reporter from the Evening Post took a photo of our family and it appeared in the paper the next day with the title "The Shepherd and his Flock."

We settled in a house in Lower Hutt that had been organised for us. People in the church had been very kind filling the pantry with lovely food and made us very welcome.

There was a lot to learn in their new country. Luckily, both my parents had quite a good knowledge of English but being able to read English and speak it in an everyday sense are not always the same. However, they were keen to settle and learn English and we youngsters picked up our new language very quickly.

These are just a few different things, but they adapted well. My parents taught us that New Zealand was indeed a paradise and they never complained about missing their country of birth. They were excited to show us the whole country and we travelled extensively around New Zealand. They were forever thankful for their new life here and we are all proud to be New Zealand citizens.

The Netherlands

Koninkrijk der Nederlanden, the Netherlands also commonly known as Holland, is a country located in Northwstern Europe. A population of 17.30 million people, all living within a total area of 41,500 Km 2. Amsterdam is the capital. Holland is one of the most densely populated countris in the world. Two official language are spoken: Dutch and West Frisian. Greek geographer Phyteas is the 1st author to describe the coast in 325 BC.

The Netherlands has a developed economy with coal, gas and agriculture highly mechanised. It is the world's second-largest exporter of food and agricultural products.

The Netherlands has had many well-known painters: Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh and philosophers: Erasmus. Football is the most popular sport.

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PACKING for a new life

Migrant Suitcase Nanda Rammers

Nederland – The Netherlands
to New Zealand, year 2001



Nanda Rammers (right) and Hanna Mason



Windmill in The Netherlands



Nanda's Suitcase



The flag: The colors used in the flag of the Netherlands are based on the coat of arms of Prince William of Orange, who was a leading fighter in the freedom for the Dutch. The main difference is that the red band was originally orange in color.



The Story

My suitcase story: I grew up in the Netherlands in a family with three children. While growing up my father told stories about New Zealand and how much he wanted to live here. It was an ongoing theme in our family. Although my Dad really wanted to leave his home country after the war, eventually my Mum decided against it. She was an only child, leaving her parents behind and not being able to communicate and see them was too much for her.

Influenced by our father's stories both my sister and I eventually left the Netherlands. My sister and her husband arrived in 2000. I left in 2001 together with my husband and daughter, at that time five years old.

Relocation

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Migrant Suitcase Padi Nistala

Visakhapatnam, India to Libya, to U.S.A, to Canada, to New Zealand, Year 2007.



The Story

This suitcase story is about my parents Mr & Mrs N.K Rao who immigrated from Visakhapatnam, India to Tripoli, Libya with us five children in 1979. My dad was 39 years old, mum was 37 and we were all under 10 years of age. Dad worked as a supervisor at a fertilizer company and was the sole bread-winner of the family.

We blissfully lived there for 3 happy years and that was the only time in our entire lives, when it was just mum, dad and us kids. In 1984 a tragedy struck – my dad's brother died suddenly. It was that incident and the fact that schooling for us was getting harder, my parents decided to move back to India. For the next 4 years dad worked in Libya and Abu-Dhabi, lived there by himself, visited us every 5 months while mum and us kids stayed in India for our schooling and education.

Food

There were no Indian places to eat in Libya at that time so any taste close to home had to be brought from India. My mum and dad took with them rice, lentils, pickles, spices, utensils to prepare various South-Indian foods like dosa, idly, chutneys.

Clothing

My mum packed all kinds of sarees for casual wear, daily wear and silk sarees for special occasions. There were also traditional outfits (long skirts and blouses) for us three sisters. Some traditional clothes like kurta pyjama for my dad and brothers.

Religious items

There are several rituals and festivals during a year and my parents tried their best to follow some of these by taking a few religious items like-copper and brass items, religious symbols and objects, pictures of deities, oil lamps. Also took religious books like Bhagawad Gita and Ramayana.

Music

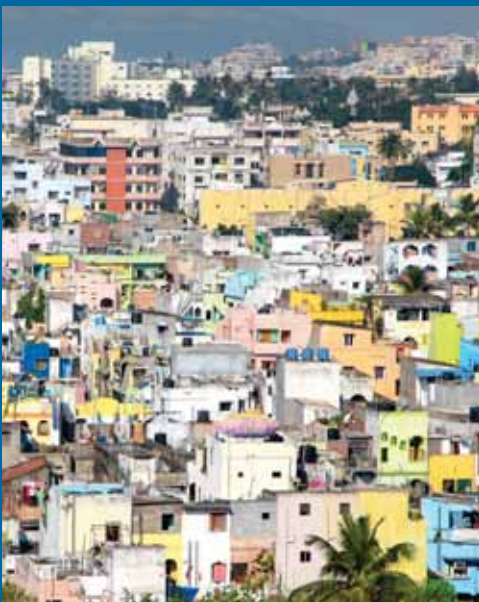
Mum and dad both loved singing and listening to South Indian classical music also known as Carnatic music.

India

Republic of India is in South Asia. It is the 7th largest country by area and the 2nd most populated country with 1.3 billion people. India is a federal union comprising 29 states and 7 union territories. Mumbai is the largest city and New Delhi is the capital.

The Indus Valley Civilisation is the 1st urban culture that is now Pakistan and western India, which flourished during 2500–1900 BCE. The early Indian medieval age, 600 CE to 1200 CE, is defined by regional kingdoms and cultural diversity. By the early 18th century a number of European trading companies, including the English East India Company, had established coastal outposts.

Hindi and English are the 2 official languages and the principal religions are Hinduism (79.8%), Islam (14.2%), Christianity (2.3%) and Sikhism (1.7%). The earliest literature in India, between 1500 BCE and 1200 CE, was in the Sanskrit language. The Indian film industry, Bollywood, produces the world's most-watched cinema.



Visakhapatnam, INDIA



Padi's Suitcase



The flag: A horizontal rectangular tricolour of India saffron, white and India green; with the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel, in navy blue at its centre. It was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947, and it became the official flag of the Dominion of India on 15 August 1947. The flag was subsequently retained as that of the Republic of India.

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Migrant Suitcase Rica and Bob Bolanos

The Republic of the Philippines
to New Zealand, year 2006



The Story

Our Story: When we decided to migrate, we looked at the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We decided on New Zealand, as it is a small country with an agricultural base but with a first world vibe.

After acquiring a work to residency visa, I made the trip to New Zealand in February 2006 to work on a dairy farm in Rotherham, a small town north of Christchurch. With a degree in Agribusiness Management, I had always been interested in dairy farming. I was given residency as soon as I signed my employment contract. My family followed in June 2006 a day before a huge snowstorm hit the South Island. They woke up jet lagged to a metre of snow outside our home.

In May 2017, I retired from dairy farming moving into the construction industry and bought a house in Pegasus Town where we live today.

Various Items in our Suitcase

Bible - My father was Catholic and my mother was Christian Protestant so I grew up practicing both religions.

Statue of the Blessed Virgin - In the Catholic Church, the veneration of Mary, mother of Jesus, encompasses various Marian devotions. We felt we needed an image of the Blessed Virgin Mother to watch over our home and protect us.

Tamagotchi - Tamagotchi is a handheld digital pet, created in Japan by Akihiro Yokoi of WiZ and Aki Maita of Bandai.

Cook books - We wanted to be able to cook our favourite Filipino dishes. We had to bring a cookbook by Nora Daza who is one of the best Filipino chefs in the Philippines.

The Da Vinci Code - The Davinci Code is a 2003 mystery thriller novel by Dan Brown. I like to read on my spare time and because of space constraints, had a hard time choosing just one book to bring.

Medicine from our country - Not knowing what to expect we decided to bring some basic medicines for common ailments.

Food - We brought some food with us like instant noodles and canned goods. Being an archipelago means we have an abundance of fish. Typically other migrant Filipinos coming from the countryside will want to bring dried fish.

Photo Album - We love to take pictures and have many photo albums of our children growing up. We cannot take all our photo albums but had to bring a few.

The Republic of the Philippines

An island country of Southeast Asia in the western Pacific Ocean. It is an archipelago consisting of some 7,107 islands and islets lying about 500 miles (800 km) off the coast of Vietnam. Manila is the capital, but nearby Quezon City is the country's most-populous city. Both are part of the National Capital Region (Metro Manila), located on Luzon, the largest island. The second largest island of the Philippines is Mindanao, in the southeast. The Philippines is divided into 17 regions (16 administrative and one autonomous). Southern Tagalog was the largest region in the Philippines in terms of both land area and population. The 2000 Census of Population and Housing showed the region having a total of 11,793,655 people, which comprised 15.42 % of the population of the country.



Village and Rice Terraces in the Philippines



Rica and Bob's Suitcase



The flag: A horizontal bicolor of blue and red; with a white equilateral triangle based at the hoist containing three, 5-pointed gold stars at its vertices, and an 8 rayed gold sun at its centre.

China

Thailand

Philippines

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Migrant Suitcase Agnes Mullis

Hong Kong to New Zealand,
year 2003



Hong Kong



Dim Sum



The flag: SAR of Hong Kong is a feature white, stylised, five-petal Hong Kong orchid tree flower in the centre of a red field in accordance of People's Republic of China's flag. The colours red and white symbolise the political principle applied to the region: "1 country 2 systems." This design was adopted on 4 April 1990.

China

Hong Kong

The Story

I came to New Zealand in January 2003. For my first two years I was studying as an international student in Dunedin. I enjoyed student life after many years of work in Hong Kong and then found a job in the tourism industry. At my workplace, I met my husband who is a Kiwi, and we moved to Christchurch. I was holding a working visa and I was not allowed to stay in NZ without working, so I went back to studying for a year on a travel and tourism course. Afterwards, we settled down in Oxford on a lifestyle block. That was an amazing experience for a 100% city girl from Hong Kong.

Now I am a mother of three. I miss Hong Kong and my family and friends so much. But I know New Zealand is a place that I can bring up my children and let them have a better education and future. I will keep going on my journey with my kids in New Zealand. Although my family, especially my Grandma is always asking me things and worrying about how I can look after three kids on my own. My answer is "Don't worry I will be fine, I will find a way."

Church Corner is in Upper Riccarton area and is a place that I go to stock up on my Asian groceries and of course have my Yum Cha. My husband and kids love it too. Unfortunately there are no Hong Kong style restaurants in Christchurch, I would need to go to Auckland or Wellington.

The items in my suitcase are my collections from the year I came to NZ until now. Some of them were posted from my family and friends during those years.

Hong Kong, 香港

Fragrant Harbour in Cantonese is situated on the southeast coast of China. Hong Kong's strategic location on the Pearl River Delta and South China Sea has made it one of the world's most thriving and cosmopolitan cities. With over 7.4 million people of various nationalities in a 1,104 km², it is the world's fourth most densely populated region.

New Zealand is about 243 times bigger than Hong Kong. Christchurch is 1426 km², similar size as Hong Kong.

Hong Kong as we know it today was born when China's Qing dynasty government was defeated in the First Opium War in 1842, Hong Kong Island was formally ceded to the United Kingdom. The colony was expanded in 1898, when Britain obtained a 99 years lease of the New Territories. Hong Kong was transferred to China on 1st July 1997.

Food

Due to Hong Kong's past as a British colony and a long history of being an international port of commerce. Hong Kong cuisine is mainly influenced by Cantonese cuisine and European cuisines. Yum Cha 飲茶, is a common dining-out tradition with family and friends getting together. Dim Sum is small snacks cooked in bamboo steamers. The classic Dim Sum are steamed shrimp dumpling, siu mai, BBQ pork bun, spring roll etc.

Hong Kong Style Restaurant Cha Chaan Teng 茶餐廳, become an international attraction. Cha Chaan Teng is a unique fast food restaurant in Hong Kong and is a popular local dining place all around in Hong Kong. The business hours are usually from 6am to 1am, and in busy areas it is more likely to be open 24 hours. They offer a variety of preset meals, fast food, bakery, and Chinese and western style meals in a very efficient timing. To experience the authentic Hong Kong life, you must go to try.

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Migrant Suitcase Rev. Veitomoni Siufanga

Pule'anga Fakatu'i 'o Tonga - Kingdom of Tonga to New Zealand, year 2003



The Story

In the 1950s and 60s, the only people who have managed to migrate from Tonga to NZ were the Royal family because they have the money to bring their children or royal family, especially to study or work. However, my father was one of the first commoners who had the opportunity to come and study in the early 1960 only because he was a good friend of Fatafehi Tu'i Pelehake, the second son of Queen Salote, the ruler of Tonga at the time. He was also the chief of our village, and he did pay for my father to come to NZ.

During this time, Samoa, Rarotonga and Niue were a colony of NZ, therefore they don't have to apply for a visa to come to NZ. Many Tongans were migrated to these Pacific Islands and looked for someone to marry in order to come to NZ. This was a successful movement, as some of my cousins moved to NZ, and as a result, they brought some of our families, including myself to live in NZ.

Food: Taro, cassava, yam, kumara, 'ota, lu, kapapulu.

Clothing: Ta'ovala, tupenu, kofu.

Religion: Christianity.

Music: Hymns, usu, maaimoa, reggae.



Tongan beach



XXXXX



The flag: The Red Cross represents the country's belief in Christianity, white stands for purity and red represents the blood Jesus shed at his crucifixion and reminds Tonga's people that they owe their salvation to him.

Tonga

Pacific Ocean

Pule'anga Fakatu'i 'o Tonga, The Kingdom of Tonga

Pule'anga Fakatu'i 'o Tonga, the Kingdom of Tonga, is a Polynesian archipelago comprising of 169 islands, of which 36 are inhabited. The total surface area is about 750 Km² scattered over 700,000 square kilometres of the southern Pacific Ocean. The Kingdom has a population of 100,651 people, of whom 70% reside on the main island of Tongatapu.

An Austronesian-speaking group linked to the archaeological construct known as the Lapita cultural complex reached and inhabited Tonga around 1500 BC. The first settlers came to the oldest town, Nukuleka, by 888 BC. By the 12th century, Tongans and the Tongan paramount chief, the Tu'i Tonga built across the central Pacific, from Niue, Samoa, Wallis & Futuna, New Caledonia to Tikopia, a thalassocracy the Tu'i Tonga Empire. The Tongan people first encountered Europeans in 1616 when the Dutch vessel captained by Willem Schouten.

In the XVIII century Captain James Cook and some Spanish and Us Navy explorers came. In 1845, a young warrior, Tāufa'āhau united Tonga into a kingdom and he had been baptised by Methodist missionaries with the name Siaso ("George") in 1831. Tonga became a protected state under a Treaty of Friendship with Britain on 1900 and joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1970.

Tonga is a constitutional monarchy sub-divided into five administrative divisions. Tonga's economy is characterised by a large non-monetary sector and a heavy dependence on remittances from the half of the country's population who live abroad. The manufacturing sector consists of handicrafts and a few other small-scale industries. The tourist industry is growing.

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Migrant Suitcase Ursula Parkinson

Malo Sa'oloto Tuto'atasi o Sāmoa, the Independent State of Samoa to New Zealand, year 2003



The Story

This suitcase contains clothes that I used to wear and significant items I admired when I was in Samoa. The tapa, mats and handmade wooden bowl brought back a lot of memories of my childhood. I grew up in an extended family with grandparents, aunties, uncles and cousins, all living in one fale (round shelter with open sides).

Clothes

The puletasi (dress) in the suitcase was made by my mother. For most Samoan, family is of the utmost importance. We believe each person is a representative of their family and should act in such a way that honours all family members.

The Tapa cloth: Strips of bark are soaked, scraped and beaten out on logs or special tables with tapa beaters.

Siapo is the Samoan word for a fine cloth made from the bark of the Paper Mulberry tree.

Because Samoa is hot, most people wear polyester. It dries quickly and it doesn't stain like cotton does. Fabric plays a huge role in Samoan culture.

Religion

We have strong beliefs in Christianity and on Sunday everyone must be in church. The high chief in the village will always make sure most of the people should be in the church except few to stay home to cook. Access to villages closes and are guarded daily during prayer time. It is a solemn ritual in which a ceremonial beverage is shared to mark important occasions in Samoan society.

The Samoan tattoo, or 'tatau' as it is known traditionally, is deeply tied into the culture of Samoa. It is done as a source of pride in their heritage and culture. To be offered the chance to be tattooed for Samoan men is a very high honour.

Food

The plantations of bananas, breadfruit, taro, tropical fruits and vegetables picked each day for Samoan meals. Palusami (young taro leaves baked in coconut cream) and oka, (raw fish in coconut cream), both are Samoan traditional food.

Malo Sa'oloto Tuto'atasi o Sāmoa

The Independent State of Samoa is a country consisting of two main islands, Savai'i and Upolu, and four smaller islands. Samoa lies south of the equator, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand, in the Polynesian region of the Pacific Ocean. The total land area is 2,842 km², consisting of the two large islands of Upolu and Savai'i (which together account for 99% of the total land area) and eight small islets with a population of 194,320. The capital and largest city is Apia. Samoan and English are the official languages.

Over the millennia, the Samoan people engaged in trade, battles and intermarriage of nobility with the neighbouring islands of Fiji and Tonga.

Samoa celebrates its independence each June. In June 2017, passing changing the country's constitution was changed to include a reference to the Trinity. The economy of Samoa was dependent on agriculture and fishing at the local level but in modern times, development aid, private family remittances from overseas, and agricultural exports have become key factors in the nation's economy.



Church in Samoa



Samoa handmade wooden bowl



The flag: This flag with the white stars of the Southern Cross was adopted 1st January 1962. The blue represent freedom; red is courage, as well as being a traditional Samoan colour.

Samoa

Pacific Ocean

Australia

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PACKING for a new life

Migrant Suitcase **Super (im)migrant**



The Super Migrant suitcase contains items that are representative of his qualities and super powers.

Every (im) migrant is a Super Hero

Superman was an immigrant from the planet Krypton. His parents sent him to Earth not just to escape Krypton's destruction, but also to offer him a chance for a better life. Superman is for his creators, who were children of Jewish immigrants, an allegory of the Migrant. Superman is more specifically, a refugee forced to leave his country because of war, persecution or natural disasters. Whether the reasons are economic, political or sentimental - migrants live and hope for a better life. Like every Super Hero, Super Migrant has superhuman powers, is dedicated to adapting to a new country, learning a new language and way of life.

He needs:

- To be resourceful
- To be able to speak different languages
- To have a good sense of direction to be able to find his way
- To be handyman and able to do every sort of job
- To be very organised and skilful to be able to face up to different situations
- To be keen to eat any type of food
- To be well grounded.

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